

ILLEGIB

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19 January 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Group  
Chief, Production Group  
Chief, Analysis Group  
Chief, Administrative Staff  
Chief, Executive and Planning Staff

SUBJECT : FBIS Affiliation

The DDI has suggested that it would be timely for us to present our ideas on the impact on FBIS of reorganization of the Intelligence Community. Here, briefly stated, are pros and cons of changing our present status along the lines we discussed with the bureau chiefs. They are listed in the order of attractiveness to FEIS as I see it. Please let me know if you disagree, and amend or expand on the pros and cons that I have listed. Also, if you have a preferred course or action, please describe it in a paragraph or two so that I can incorporate it in our report to Mr. Proctor. I would like your reply by COB Tuesday, 20 January.

1. FBIS to be part of an intelligence production group shorn of clandestine and technical components, sort of an augmented DDI organization.

PRO

Continued close association with our primary analytical consumers.

A "clean" image abroad.

A natural affinity among the officers of such a grouping would keep FBIS' morale high.

CON

As the sole collector among analysts, FBIS would be the odd ball in top managers' eyes.

Unfamiliarity with overseas operation management problems on the part of our associates would make it difficult for us to sell our proposals.

In a tug of war for resources, production offices would receive more sympathetic treatment than support elements.

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2. FBIS to become an independent U.S. Government organization.

PRO

A clean name and image abroad.

Our decision-making process would be independent and clear cut.

CON

We would need to provide our own support, obviously requiring a much larger organization.

We would have to justify our annual budgets before Congress. (Almost inevitably, we would need a sponsor, or someone to run interference for us.)

FBIS is simply too small to operate effectively as an independent organization in the U.S. Government labyrinth.

3. FBIS to become a part of State Department.

PRO

A clean image abroad.

We would be more acceptable to ambassadors and host governments.

We would be close to one of our major consumers.

We would be with an organization that could defend our budget proposals fairly well, and that understands the management problems of an overseas organization.

CON



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We might also become a holding tank for qualified Foreign Service officers assigned to the United States for whom State had no appropriate position.

The influx and turbulence resulting from the above would mean a loss of professionalism.

As a State component, we would be subject to pressures from the ambassador and other foreign service officers. Our product could be controlled to comport with their view of the "national interest."

In State budget crunches, we might fare as poorly as VOA and USIA.

4. FBIS to be part of a component in which all collectors--overt, covert, technical--are included.

PRO

We would still be close to our key consumers, the analysts.

We would be with an element that understands and is sympathetic toward the problems of collection overseas.

CON

Association with covert activities would be fatal, unless a credible (and doubtless expensive) cover were established.

Clandestine collection top managers have so far shown no great regard for overt collection.

5. Affiliation with a Department of Defense component.

PRO

There would be many sites available overseas.

We would probably have more access to funds and slots.

Our image would be cleansed of covert overtones.

CON

The military image itself is unpopular abroad.

There doubtless would be strong military influence on our activities.

Our monitoring probably would be tilted more toward DOD targets than community targets.

6. Commercial. The FBIS function could be filled by a commercial contract with a business corporation.

PRO

Our image would be clean.

CON

It would be very expensive. "FBIS" would lose our non-commercial communications links. It would lose our free rent on Government sites.

Overseas, "FBIS" would be subject to political restrictions by host governments.

Reliance on local communications would make "FBIS" vulnerable during local crises.

"FBIS" would lack easy access to classified consumers.



Deputy Director  
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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